

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA**

STARRED QUESTION NO:123
ANSWERED ON:08.12.2015
Rise in Prices of Pulses
Joshi Shri Chandra Prakash

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether the prices of pulses have gone up for various reasons including sudden shortage in the market during the last one year and if so, the details thereof;
- (b) the prevailing retail and wholesale prices of pulses in the major cities/markets of the country;
- (c) whether the Government is aware that several State Governments have seized pulses despite prescribed stock limit having been met and pulses are being auctioned off, if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor; and
- (d) whether opportunity of being heard is afforded to the traders before the auction of pulses, if so, the details thereof and if not, the time by which they are likely to be given such a hearing?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
(SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN)

(a) to (d) : A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.

STATEMENT REFERRED IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (d) OF LOK SABHA STARRED QUESTION NO.*123 FOR 08.12.2015 REGARDING RISE IN PRICES OF PULSES.

(a) & (b) : There has been a rise in the retail prices of pulses over the year. The main reason for this increase in prices is the reduced availability following a decline in production of pulses from 19.25 million tonnes in 2013-14 to 17.20 million tonnes in 2014-15 on account of adverse weather conditions. In addition, factors such as rise in transportation costs, hoarding and black-marketing have also contributed to the price rise. However, prices of pulses have started showing a declining trend due to several measures by the Government which include the following:-

- 1) Authorized States/Union Territories to impose stock limit on pulses and the same has been extended up to 30.9.2016.
- 2) Advisories to States/Union Territories issued to take action against hoarding & black marketing and effectively enforce the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 & the Prevention of Black-marketing Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act, 1980.
- 3) As per the information provided by State Governments, 14134 raids have been conducted in 14 States resulting in seizure of 130606 tonnes of pulses (as on 03.12.2015) to arrest the rising prices of pulses.
- 4) Ban on export of pulses imposed with effect from June 22, 2006, except for Kabuli Chana and organic pulses & Lentils up to a maximum of 10000 tonnes a year.
- 5) Extension of zero import duty on all pulses till 30.09.2016 except for Chickpeas and Lentils which will be reviewed during December, 2015.
- 6) Import of 5000 tonnes of Tur was undertaken by the Government through Price Stabilization Fund Scheme of Department of Agriculture, Cooperation and Farmers Welfare. It was allocated to States based on requests received from State Governments.
- 7) To incentivize production, higher Minimum Support Price (MSP) has been announced for both Kharif and Rabi pulses for 2015-16. Accordingly, for Kharif season, MSP (including bonus) has been increased by Rs 275 from Rs 4350 to Rs 4625 per quintal for both Arhar and Urad, and by Rs 250 from Rs 4600 to Rs 4850 per quintal for Moong respectively. For Rabi season, the increase (including bonus) has been by Rs 325 from Rs 3175 to Rs 3500 per quintal for Gram and from Rs 3075 to Rs 3400 per quintal for Masoor respectively.

The details of price trends of the major pulses are at ANNEXURE-I.

(c) : The Government, vide Notification No.SO 2642 (E) dated 28th September, 2015 under Section 3 of the Essential Commodities Act, 1955 has enabled States to impose stock limits as may be considered necessary to ensure availability of pulses at reasonable prices. Accordingly, several States have imposed stock limits on pulses. The States were also requested to undertake enforcement of stock limits. Raids have been conducted in States and stocks of pulses have been seized as per the Essential Commodities Act, 1955. The details of action taken by the States are at ANNEXURE-II.

(d) : Yes, Madam. Section 6 of this Act provides for the procedure to confiscate essential commodities and to dispose the stocks so seized.
